

TNBC EDUCATIONAL OBJECTIVES AS OF SEPTEMBER 23, 2000

IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE CHILDREN'S TELEVISION REGULATIONS THAT BECAME EFFECTIVE JANUARY 2, 1997, NBC'S TNBC PROGRAMS FEATURE AN ON-AIR ICON INDICATING EACH PROGRAM AS "EDUCATIONAL AND INFORMATIONAL" FOR CHILDREN. THIS ICON IS DISPLAYED AT THE BEGINNING OF EACH BROADCAST. ALSO, IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE NEW REGULATIONS, THE FOLLOWING DOCUMENT WHICH INCLUDES "EDUCATIONAL AND INFORMATIONAL OBJECTIVES OF TNBC" MUST BE PLACED IN YOUR PUBLIC FILE.

"EDUCATIONAL AND INFORMATIONAL OBJECTIVES OF TNBC"

EACH OF THE PROGRAMS LISTED BELOW WHICH MAKE UP NBC'S TNBC (TEEN NBC) PROGRAMMING BLOCK IS SPECIFICALLY DESIGNED TO SERVE THE EDUCATIONAL AND INFORMATIONAL NEEDS OF TEENAGERS, SPECIFICALLY, 13-16 YEAR OLDS. THE EDUCATIONAL OBJECTIVE OF EACH OF THESE PROGRAMS IS TO DEMONSTRATE HOW THE KNOWLEDGE OF ONE OR MORE CHARACTERS IN THE STORY MOVES FROM ONE LEVEL TO A MORE INFORMED OR HIGHER LEVEL OF KNOWLEDGE BY THE END OF EACH EPISODE. THIS CHANGE IN KNOWLEDGE CONVEYS AN EDUCATIONAL MESSAGE TO THE AUDIENCE WHICH MAY FALL INTO ONE OR MORE CATEGORIES--INTELLECTUAL-COGNITIVE AND/OR SOCIO-EMOTIONAL. THE MESSAGE WILL ALWAYS BE INTEGRAL TO THE PLOT. CONTENT WHICH DEVELOPS THE MESSAGE WILL BE PRESENT THROUGHOUT THE SCRIPT.

THE EDUCATIONAL OBJECTIVES ARE ACHIEVED BY OFFERING THE AUDIENCE ENGAGING AND RELATABLE CHARACTERS WHO SHARE A COMMON PERSPECTIVE. THE STORYLINES ARE DRAWN FROM SPECIFIC CHALLENGES TEEN FACE TODAY DRINKING AND DRIVING, LEARNING DISABILITIES, EATING DISORDERS, GAMBLING, SMOKING, SUBSTANCE ABUSE, RACIAL AND ETHNIC INTOLERANCE AND THE RIGHT AND RESPONSIBILITY TO VOTE. PERENNIAL THEMES, SUCH AS FRIENDSHIP, DEFINING ONE'S SELF, DEVELOPING SOCIAL SKILLS, MANAGING ONE'S LIFE AND BEING COMPETENT ARE ALSO COVERED BECAUSE THEY ARE CENTRAL TO ADOLESCENCE. ALL THE THEMES ARE INTEGRATED INTO THE SERIES IN VARYING DEGREES AND WITH DIFFERENT LEVELS OF EMPHASIS.

TO ENSURE THAT THE CONTENT OF EACH SHOW IS DEVELOPMENTALLY APPROPRIATE FOR THE TARGET TEEN AUDIENCE, THE TNBC TEAM OF PRODUCERS AND WRITERS WORKS CLOSELY WITH EDUCATIONAL CONSULTANTS. THESE EXPERTS IDENTIFY IMPORTANT THEMES AND DILEMMAS OF ADOLESCENCE THAT CAN FORM THE BASIS OF THE MESSAGES. THEY HELP INTEGRATE THE EDUCATIONAL THEME OF EACH SHOW INTO THE ACTION, SO THAT THE STORY NARRATIVE AND THE EDUCATION MESSAGE ARE INTERDEPENDENT.

"CITY GUYS" ORIGINATES AT A DENSELY POPULATED, MULTI-ETHNIC, PUBLIC HIGH SCHOOL IN THE HEART OF MANHATTAN. THROUGH ITS CHARACTERS, THE SHOW DEMONSTRATES THAT WHAT WE SEE DOESN'T BEGIN TO TELL THE STORY ABOUT WHO PEOPLE REALLY ARE AND WHAT LIFE IS REALLY LIKE. TWO YOUNG MEN, WHO SEEM TO BE OPPOSITES IN ALL THE OBVIOUS WAYS--RACE, ECONOMIC BACKGROUND, CULTURE, CLOTHES AND MUSIC--ARE THROWN INTO A FRIENDSHIP AND WORKING RELATIONSHIP BY THEIR WISE AND ACERBIC PRINCIPAL. THE BOYS ACTUALLY HAVE A LOT IN COMMON--THEY ARE BOTH BRIGHT, THEY WANT TO BE MORE THAN THE NEGATIVE IMAGES THEY SOMETIMES PROJECT, AND THEY HAVE NEVER BEEN MOTIVATED TO REALLY THINK, REFLECT, OR ACT BEYOND THE SUPERFICIAL. AS THEY DEAL WITH THE PRESSURES OF BIG CITY LIFE, THEY LEARN THAT GETTING BEYOND THE SUPERFICIAL AND SERIOUSLY DEALING WITH A DEEPER REALITY IS THE CRITICAL PATH TO ATTAINING SUCCESS.

"HANG TIME" FOLLOWS THE DEERING TORNADOES, A VARSITY BASKETBALL TEAM IN AN INDIANA HIGH SCHOOL THAT INCLUDES ONLY ONE FEMALE PLAYER. THE SERIES FOLLOWS THE STARTING LINE-UP THROUGH ITS BASKETBALL SEASONS AND EXPLORES BOTH PERSONAL THEMES OF ADOLESCENT LIFE, AS WELL AS THE SOCIAL THEMES WHICH RELATE TO SPORTSMANSHIP, FAIR PLAY, JEALOUSY, TEAMWORK, COOPERATION AND COMPETITION. AS THE TEAM PROGRESSES THROUGH EACH SEASON, THE AUDIENCE WILL SEE THEM DEVELOP SKILLS IN SEVERAL AREAS. THESE INCLUDE ESTABLISHING PRIORITIES, MANAGING CONFLICT, DEVELOPING SELF-CONFIDENCE, RESPECTING DIFFERENCES, AND REDUCING BIAS IN BEHAVIOR TOWARDS OTHERS. THERE IS AN EMPHASIS ON INTERPERSONAL COMPETENCE AND TEAMWORK WHICH DEMONSTRATES TO THE AUDIENCE WAYS TO DEVELOP POSITIVE SELF-CONCEPTS YET ALSO MAKE AND MAINTAIN EFFECTIVE SOCIAL RELATIONSHIPS.

"ONE WORLD" FOCUSES ON A FAMILY OF SIX ADOPTED AND FOSTER CHILDREN WHO LIVE WITH DAVE AND KAREN BLAKE, A HIGH SCHOOL BASEBALL COACH AND HIS WIFE. EACH OF THE BLAKE KIDS HAS HAD A ROUGH LIFE; GETTING INTO TROUBLE EITHER AT SCHOOL, OR WITH THE LAW, OR GETTING BOUNCED AROUND TO DIFFERENT FOSTER FAMILIES. LIFE WITH THE BLAKES IS THEIR CHANCE AT A STABLE FUTURE BUT EACH CHILD'S BACKGROUND INFLUENCES THEIR PERSPECTIVE ON HOW TO HANDLE FAMILY AND LIFE CHALLENGES. . IN ADDITION TO LEARNING HOW TO MANAGE FAMILY RELATIONSHIPS, THE KIDS DEAL WITH OTHER SOCIAL AND COGNITIVE ISSUES, FROM PROVIDING SERVICE TO HELP OTHERS, TO LIFE PLANNING AND EDUCATIONAL DEVELOPMENT. THERE IS AN EMPHASIS ON UNDERSTANDING MULTIPLE PERSPECTIVES ON ANY PROBLEM AND GIVING EVERY PERSON A FAIR CHANCE TO PROVE THEIR WORTH TO OTHERS.

"JUST DEAL" FOCUSES ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF THREE TEENS WHO ARE UNIQUELY DIFFERENT FROM ONE ANOTHER YET FORGE DEEP BONDS OF FRIENDSHIP THROUGH THEIR SHARED INTERESTS AND PROBLEMS. AS THESE THREE NAVIGATE THEIR WAY THROUGH HIGH SCHOOL, THEY WILL DEAL WITH ALL THE IMPORTANT ISSUES OF ADOLESCENCE, MODELING THEIR PROBLEM-SOLVING AND DECISION-MAKING FOR THE TEEN AUDIENCE. THE OVERARCHING GOAL OF THIS SERIES IS TO TAKE THE VIEWER FROM ONE LEVEL OF KNOWLEDGE TO A MORE INFORMED OR HIGHER LEVEL OF KNOWLEDGE WITHIN EACH EPISODE. THIS IS ACHIEVED THROUGH THE STORYLINES, WHERE ONE OR MORE OF THE THREE MAIN CHARACTERS WILL DEMONSTRATE ACTIVE PROBLEM-SOLVING AND DECISION-MAKING RELATED TO A SPECIFIC TOPIC. EACH WEEK, EMBEDDED IN AN EVOLVING, CONTINUOUS PROCESS OF FRIENDSHIP AND VALUES CLARIFICATION, A CHARACTER WILL DEAL WITH A SPECIFIC CHALLENGE. TOPICS WILL INCLUDE, FOR EXAMPLE, RACIAL IDENTITY, UNDERSTANDING AND ACCEPTING LOSS, FACING FAILURE, EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION, CONFLICT MANAGEMENT PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY, SERVICE TO OTHERS, TRUST AND BETRAYAL, ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT, LIFE BALANCE, AND TOLERANCE.

ALSO INCLUDED IN THE TNBC LINEUP IS "NBA INSIDE STUFF," A HALF-HOUR NEWS MAGAZINE PROGRAM DIRECTED AT TEENS BETWEEN THE AGES OF 13-16. THE PROGRAM FEATURES THE PRO-SOCIAL OFF-COURT ACTIVITIES OF MALE AND FEMALE BASKETBALL PLAYERS, COACHES, TEAM PERSONNEL AND TEENAGE ATHLETES. OTHER FEATURES HIGHLIGHT ATHLETIC SKILLS, ATTITUDE AND KNOWLEDGE NEEDED FOR SUCCESSFUL ALTHLETIC COMPETITION AND PARTICIPATION.

PROGRAM SEGMENTS ARE BASED ON A CURRICULUM INSPIRED BY THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION'S GOALS 2000, WITH PARTICULAR FOCUS ON MESSAGES ENCOURAGING THE FOLLOWING VALUES: SCHOOL COMPLETION, COMMUNITY SERVICE, COOPERATION, TOLERANCE OF DIFFERENCES, HEALTHFUL PRACTICES AND ATHLETICS, PEACEFUL CONFLICT RESOLUTION AND GLOBAL AWARENESS. THE PROGRAM'S HOST CONVEYS THESE EDUCATIONAL AND INFORMATIONAL MESSAGES PRIMARILY THROUGH REAL LIFE EXAMPLES, INTERVIEWS AND COMMENTARY. WEEKLY FEATURES ON PLAYERS AND OTHER INDIVIDUALS ASSOCIATED WITH BASKETBALL HELP THE AUDIENCE SEE HOW THESE INDIVIDUALS WERE ABLE TO OVERCOME VARIOUS OBSTACLES IN ORDER TO ACHIEVE THEIR GOALS.